

Chapter 20

Six cities of refuge for such as commit casual manslaughter are named, 6. in which remaining til the death of the high priest, they may then returne to their proper dwelling place, and be safe.

And our Lord spake to Iofue, faying: Speake to the children of Ifrael, and say to them: ² Separate the cities of the fugitiues, of the which I spake to you by the hand of Moyfes; ³ that he may flee to them whofoeuer shal fstrike a foule vnwitting: and may escape the wrath of the nigh kinfeman, which is the reuenger of blood: ⁴ when he shal be fled to one of these cities: he shal stand before the gate of the citie, and shal speake to the ancientes of that citie ^a)those things, that may proue him selfe innocent: and so they shal receiue him, and geue him place to inhabite. ⁵ And when the reuenger of the blood shal pursue him, they shal not deliuer him into his handes: because he stroke his neighbour by ignorance, neither is he proued to be his enemie two or three dayes before. ⁶ And he shal dwel in that citie, til he stand before iudgement rendring a cause of his fact, and the high priest die, which shal be at that time: then shal the manflaer returne, and enter into the citie and his house out of the which he had fled. ⁷ And they appointed Cedus in Galilee of the mount of Nepthali, and Sichem in the mount of Ephraim, and Cariatharbee, the same is Hebron in the mount of Iuda. ⁸ And beyond Iordan against the East quarter of Iericho, they appointed Bofor, which is situated in the champaine wildernes of the tribe of Ruben, and Ramoth in Galaad of the tribe of Gad, and Gaulon in Bafan of the tribe of Manaffes. ⁹ These cities were appointed to al the children of Ifrael, and to the strangers, that dwelt among them: that he might flee to them which vnwittingly had striken a foule, and might not die in the hand of the kinfeman,

^a At first entering it sufficed to allege in general his innocencie, but after he must be tried in particular.

coueting to reuenge the bloud shed, vntil he might ftand
before the people to declare his caufe.